

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the Office Action dated June 9, 2006. Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application of which claims 1 and 6 are independent. Applicant hereby amends claims 1 and 6.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,764,930 to Staats (hereinafter "Staats"). Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection for at least the reasons set forth below.

Applicant respectfully submits that Staats fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter recited in independent claims 1 and 6. Claims 1 and 6 recite "updat[ing], in the first physical node, mapping information for a second physical node marked as invalid only when the first physical node seeks to communicate with the second physical node." By only updating mapping information when necessary, the system allows the network to stabilize, reduces the number of network accesses, and increases overall efficiency. See p. 4, ln. 25-28.

Applicant respectfully submits that Staats does not disclose, teach, or suggest this subject matter. Staats describes a method of completing bus transactions among nodes coupled together via a common interconnect comprising a reconfigurable bus. See col. 1, ln. 5-10. The system of Staats is representative of one weakness of the prior art improved by the subject matter recited in claims 1-7 in that the reconfiguration process causes communication between all nodes automatically, thereby increasing network accesses and decreasing efficiency. During the self-ID process disclosed in Staats, the first node sending self-ID packets chooses "0" as its physical ID, the second node chooses

“1”, and so on. See col. 4, ln. 45-60. Thus, during the self-ID process disclosed in Staats, all nodes are in communication in order to determine a bus ID and physical ID for each node. In other words, the self-ID process causes communication between each of the nodes during an initialization phase and does not initialize IDs only when a first physical node seeks to communicate with a second physical node as recited in claims 1 and 6.

According to the disclosure of Staats, if a bus reset occurs while a bus transaction is pending, the device data records are updated to reflect the new node base address. See col. 5, ln. 28-30. A pending transaction is allowed to complete by creating a new transaction packet with the new base address for the former transaction. See col. 5, ln. 35-45. As illustrated by the pseudo-code in column 8 of Staats, the BusReset routine updates the device base address for each device on the bus. Thus, the bus reset routine disclosed in Staats updates the data records for all nodes automatically and does not update data records only when a first physical node seeks to communicate with a second physical node as recited in claims 1 and 6.

For at least the forgoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Staats fails to disclose, teach, or suggest “updat[ing], in the first physical node, mapping information for a second physical node marked as invalid only when the first physical node seeks to communicate with the second physical node,” as recited in claims 1 and 6.

At least by virtue of the failure of Staats to disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter according to the combinations recited in claims 1 and 6, Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness as required under 35 U.S.C. §

103. Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and are allowable over Staats at least by virtue of their dependencies. Claim 7 depends from claim 6 and is allowable over Staats at least by virtue of its dependency.

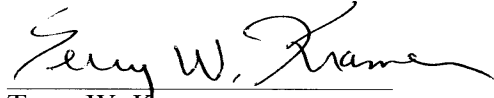
For at least the forgoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the correspondence attorney listed below in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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